with 1 1/2" diameter, used by ships for giving distress signals to indicate their position.

(c) The surveillance and security of the departure area have been enhanced.

STD/ISD Booths in Madhya Pradesh

1776 SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD public telephone booths functioning in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the number of applications still pending for allotment of such new booths in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present 8936 STD/ISD public telephones are functioning in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) 396 applications are pending for allotment of STD/ISD public telephones.

Pending Projects

1777 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects of the National Capital Territory of Delhi are pending with the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

(c) since when these projects are pending alongwith the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be accorded sanction?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No project of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is pending with Ministry for clearance.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

STD Facility in Singramau

1778 DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone exchange at Singramau is functioning smoothly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subscribers of Singramau telephone exchange have been demanding to provide the STD facility for a long time;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide STD facility in view of the public interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The telephone exchange at Singramau village in Badlapur Tehsil is a 64 Port electronic exchange and is working satisfactorily. It is connected to Jaunpur on Physical line of 42 Kms. distance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). It is proposed to provide STD facility at Singramau in 1997-98 on reliable media.

National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation

1779 SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of members in the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the details of the functions of the said corporation alongwith its development programmes for minorities;

(c) the schematic amount spent by the corporation for development works, so far; and

(d) the details of the schemes envisaged by the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation for future?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) There are five shareholders of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (NMDFC) at present. Besides the Central Government, the Governments of States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have become shareholders of the Corporation by virtue of their contribution towards the equity Capital.

(b) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides assistance to the backward sections among minorities for setting up of self-employment ventures and other promotional activities for their entrepreneurial development at concessional rates.

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation implements its schemes through the State Channelising Agencies.

(c) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides loan facilities under two schemes at present, namely, term loan and margin money loan. Under term loan the Corporation provides loan to the extent of 85 per cent of the total project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.85,000/-. Under the margin money loan scheme, the Corporation extends loans to the tune of 25 per cent of the project cost with maximum

limit of Rs.25,000/-. Till date the amount spent by the Corporation under the two schemes is given below :-

Name of the Scheme	Money spent (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Term loan	3307.35
2. Margin Money loan	468.26
Total	3775.61

(d) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was established in September 1994 only and the present emphasis is on the effective implementation of the existing schemes.

[Translation]

Contract Labour System

1780. SHRI CHITRANSEN SINKU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the permanent nature work is got done through contract labour system in the Undertakings being run by Steel Authority of India Limited in Singbhum district;

(b) if so, since when and the total number of such contract labourers, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to regularise such labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

T.V. Studio, Madurai

1781. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a T.V. Studio and introduce Metro Channel at Madurai, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) A TV Studio is envisaged to be set up at Madurai in Tamil Nadu subject to availability of adequate resources and approval of the scheme by the competent authority. The normal lead time for commissioning of a project of this nature is about 3-4 years after commencement of Civil works at site. There is no proposal, at present, to start Metro Channel (DD II) service of Doordarshan from Madurai. Further extension of Metro service (DD II) to hitherto uncovered State/Union Territories including Tamil Nadu would depend upon availability of resources for the purpose and inter-se priorities.

Welfare Schemes in Rajasthan

1782. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount for tribal area welfare fund (Tribal Sub-plan) has been drastically reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his ministry has received some welfare schemes from Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details of such schemes and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the stops being taken by the Union Government to promote the living conditions of destitute children by implementing welfare schemes in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, under ongoing schemes proposals with the recommendation of the State Government are processed and funds are released.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Scheme for Welfare of Street Children is being implemented in Jaipur since 1994. A sum of Rs.9.26 lakh has been released in the last two years to two organisations in Jaipur.

[English]

Contribution to E.P.F.

1783. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies/firms which have failed to remit their portion of contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund amounting to Rs.10 lakhs and more during 1995-96 throughout the country as per information available with his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the penal action taken to bring these defaulters to book?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A Statement is *enclosed*.

(b) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under Section 7-A, 8-B, 8G, 14 and 14-B of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and also under Section 406/409 of the IPC is already being taken against the defaulting establishments.